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**Name of Organization:** Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Type of Organization:** State

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**Project Title:** Acquire and Enhance Critical Shoreland Habitat at Chiwaukee

**Project Category:** Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 4

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 240,000 **Project Duration:** 2 Years

**Abstract:**

Chiwaukee Prairie is a unique dune/swale geological feature located adjacent to southwestern Lake Michigan. This area is designated as a State Natural Area because of the rare land forms and equally unusual plant and animal communities occupying the area. Chiwaukee Prairie is a wetland/prairie complex that has over four hundred plant species, including five endangered species and five threatened species. The animal community has a similar diversity and has three endangered species and one threatened species. Overall this area is the most biologically enriched area in the Midwest.

The focus of this proposal is to assist in funding the acquisition and management of this nationally recognized wetland/prairie complex. Funding provided through this grant would be used to match state funds for acquisition and provide service contracts for enhanced land acquisition efforts.

Current State ownership within the 400 acre project area is 254 acres. The remaining lands to be acquired are held in many instances by out of state landowners. The focus of the service contracts would be to obtain real estate services to complete the acquisition as soon as possible.

Management services on the area would include habitat enhancement through mechanical brushing, performance of prescribed burns and removal of non-native trees and shrubs. Educational outreach including tours for the public and school groups would also be emphasized. Publications and signage for self guided tours would also be provided by funding from this grant.

Partnership outreach activities would be supported from grant funds including, habitat maintenance and educational outreach for The Nature Conservancy and the Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund, the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the University of Wisconsin - Parkside. Grant funds would be used to provide machine rental for mechanical brushing and supply costs for assisting with prescribed burns.

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**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

**Lakes:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

**Geographic Initiatives:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
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**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** Not Applicable

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

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***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Chicago Wilderness

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

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**Problem Statement:**

Chiwaukee Prairie is located in a rapidly urbanizing area. Changes in septic disposal law may make it possible to construct non-traditional private septic systems in an area that up to this time was restricted by high groundwater levels thus increasing development pressure on this unique area.

Current staff and financial resources do not allow for enough acquisition and habitat maintenance on this area.

Provision of grants to be used for land acquisition, real estate contract services and supplies for maintenance and educational outreach. Grant funding would allow us to complete acquisition and maintenance at a faster rate ensuring that this area is not negatively impacted by development activities.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

Cost sharing for state acquisition of 150 acres within the project boundary.

Enhanced management of the wetland prairie habitat through rental of equipment to provide brush control.

Support of partnership habitat initiatives including brushing, firebreak installations and performance of prescribed burns.

Provision of educational brochures and signs for enhanced outreach describing the value of the prairie.

Protection and enhancement of a nationally recognized dune/swale wetland prairie complex.

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**Project Milestones:****Dates:**

Project Start	07/2000
Hire real estate service to acquire land	07/2000
Perform mechanical brushing	10/2000
Install firebreaks	11/2000
Develop educational brochures	01/2001
Perform prescribed burns	03/2001
Repeat 1-6 chronologically in 2001-2002	07/2002
Project End	07/2002

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☐ Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

☒ Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Grant funds would be used to continue and expand current outreach program to keep the public and partners (e.g., Village of Pleasant Prairie, UW- Parkside, Chiwaukee Preservation Fund, etc.) aware of activities on the prairie. Funds would be used to continue the printing of publications, organizing of tours and distributing of the annual report. New outreach initiatives would involve the development of a conference display, a slide show, and educational signage on the property.

Grant funds would also provide supply/equipment rental for prairie fire regime study in conjunction with UW-Parkside and Floyd Catchpoole, Hey & Associates.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	0	70,000
<b>Fringe:</b>	0	12,000
<b>Travel:</b>	1,000	9,000
<b>Equipment:</b>	0	1,000
<b>Supplies:</b>	9,000	8,000
<b>Contracts:</b>	30,000	15,000
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	200,000	308,000
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	240,000	423,000
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	240,000	423,000
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

Coastal Grant- \$60,000- acquisition, management  
Chiwaukee Preservation Fund- \$5,000- acquisition  
The Nature Conservancy- \$6,000- management  
Kenosha County- \$74,000- donation of lots

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

Chiwaukee Preservation Fund- donations and development of lands within project area. Educational outreach.

Kenosha County- donations of land within project area.

Village of Pleasant Prairie- dedication of and development of management agreements on parklands.

University of Wisconsin -Parkside & Floyd Catchpoole, Hey & Associates- research on wetland/prairie management.

Illinois DNR & Chicago Wilderness- collaboration of stormwater management on entire wetland/prairie complex in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Wisconsin Electric Power Company- donation of lands within the project boundary.

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission- technical and planning support of the wetland rezone and land use planning.

Army Corps of Engineers- technical and regulatory support on the protection of the wetland complex.

The Nature Conservancy- donations of land within project boundary, providing funding for management, and helping with educational outreach.